

SENATE

P. S. RES. No. 1015

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

RESOLUTION

COMMENDING THE HONORABLE SENATOR RICHARD J. GORDON FOR HIS INVALUABLE AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE SENATE AND THE NATION DURING HIS TERM AS SENATOR

WHEREAS, the Honorable Richard J. Gordon, a dedicated public servant, a visionary leader, and a hardworking Chairman of the Philippine National Red Cross, has served as Senator of the 17th and 18th Congresses (2016-2022);

WHEREAS, during his term as Senator, he chaired various standing committees such as the Committees on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations (Blue Ribbon); Justice and Human Rights; Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; Tourism; and Government Corporations and Public Enterprises;

WHEREAS, exhibiting strong advocacy for a transparent and accountable government, the Chairman of the Blue Ribbon Committee openly fought graft and corruption without fear as he initiated investigations on alleged anomalous transactions, notably the purchase of overpriced pandemic-related medical supplies involving high ranking officials from the Department of Health and the Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management and Pharmally Pharmaceutical Corporation executives, Ninja Cops, Good Conduct Time Allowance (GCTA) for sale scam at the Bureau of Correction, shabu smuggling at the Bureau of Custom, and bribery scandal at the Bureau of Immigration;

WHEREAS, as Chairman of the Committee on Justice and Human Rights, he actively participated in the enactment of measures of national importance, including RA 11696, or the "Marawi Siege Compensation Act of 2022"; RA 11691 which creates the Office of the Judiciary Marshal to ensure the safety and protection of the members of the Judiciary, judicial personnel and court assets; RA 11648 which basically provides for stronger protection against rape and sexual exploitation and abuse; RA 11643 that grants survivorship benefits to the surviving legitimate spouse and dependent children of a deceased retired member of the National Prosecution Service of the Department of Justice; RA 11594 which increases the penalties for the crime of perjury; RA 11459 or the "Judge-at-Large Act of 2019"; RA 11362 or the "Community Service Act", which authorizes the Court to require community service in lieu of imprisonment for the penalties of *arresto menor* and *arresto mayor*;

WHEREAS, in recognition of the sacrifices and efforts made by the country's valiant healthcare and non-healthcare workers to cure those afflicted with the dreadful Corona virus and to facilitate the recovery of the survivors of the disease, he strongly supported the passage of RA 11712, otherwise known as the "Public Health Emergency Benefits and Allowances for Healthcare Workers Act", which promotes the welfare of the healthcare workers through the grant of mandatory benefits and allowances with utmost efficiency;

WHEREAS, to improve the socio-economic condition of his countrymen, he was responsible in the passage of laws that grant reasonable tax reliefs and incentives, namely: RA 11569 which extends the estate tax amnesty program and RA 11262 which extends the authority of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprises Zone Authority (TIEZA) to grant tax incentives to tourism enterprises until December 31, 2029;

WHEREAS, a par excellence legislator who always puts the welfare of the people and country above all, he openly and vehemently opposed legislative measures legalizing divorce and abortion, restoring the death penalty, lowering the corporate income tax and rationalize tax perks, and shifting to a federal system of government, and expressed his support on proposed bills on anti-*balimbing*, publicizing the wealth declarations of public officials, and prohibiting end-of labor contract schemes;

WHEREAS, for voluntarily and readily providing various forms of assistance in times of disaster and calamity such as shipwrecks, typhoons, floods, earthquakes, landslides, volcano eruptions, human stampedes, and COVID-19 pandemic, he earned the moniker "Mr. Volunteer";

WHEREAS, for his socio-civic and philanthropic endeavors, he has received numerous awards, such as the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency's Lifetime National Volunteer Achievement Award, the Silver Humanitarian Service Cross Award, the Gold Humanitarian Service Cross Award, and the Japanese Red Cross Gold Humanitarian Award, among others;

WHEREAS, for his firm commitment as Senator to serve the interest of the Filipino people and nation, he deserves the gratitude of this institution and the accolade of the nation: *Now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, To commend, as it hereby commends, the Honorable Richard J. Gordon, for his invaluable and dedicated service to the Senate and the nation during his terms as Senator.

Adopted,


JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI
Senator